

Message Text

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: GERMAN TRADE UNION REACTION TO ISRAELI-ARAB
WAR

L. SUMMARY. WHILE THE SOVIET AUCCTU AND EAST GERMAN FDGB HASTENED TO DECLARE THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE ARAB SIDE, THE GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB), ON OCTOBER 9, CAME OUT WITH A MORE NEUTRAL STATEMENT DEPLORING THE OUTBREAK OF A NEW WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WITH ISRAEL AGAIN BEING "INVOLVED IN A CONFLICT WHICH INCLUDES THE DANGER OF A WORLD WIDE MILITARY DISPUTE." REFLECTING A SOMEWHAT STRONGER STAND AFTER TALKS WITH ISRAELI REPS, THE DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD, IN A TELEGRAM TO THE ISRAELI TRADE UNION FEDERATION HISTADRUT ON OCTOBER 16, REAFFIRMED THE "RIGHT OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE TO A PEACEFUL LIFE WITHIN SECURE BORDERS." IT WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY CONSTANT MILITARY FIGHTING SINCE WAR CAN NEITHER REPLACE NOR ENFORCE A POLITICAL SOLUTION, BUT ONLY BRINGS ABOUT DISTRESS AND MISERY TO THE PEOPLES INVOLVED. THE DGB WEEKLY WELT DER ARBEIT FOLLOWED THE NEUTRAL POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND STRESSED IN ITS ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION FOR THE OUTBREAK OF THE NEW WAR. WHILE THE PAPERS OF MOST OF THE 16 DGB AFFILIATED UNIONS CONFINED THEMSELVES TO REPRINTING THE DGB STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 9, THE DGB MINeworkers UNION JOURNAL EINHEIT WAS THE ONLY UNION TO SUPPORT THE ISRAELIS BY CONDEMNING ARAB AGGRESSION.
END SUMMARY.

2. IN A STATEMENT PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 9, THE DGB EXPRESSED ITS CONSTERNATION AND DEEP CONCERN OVER THE OUTBREAK OF A NEW WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND A POTENTIAL WORLD-WIDE MILITARY CONFLICT. IT APPEALED TO ALL STATES INVOLVED IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAR TO CEASE FIRE IMMEDIATELY AND TO OPEN TALKS TO ACHIEVE A DURABLE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES.

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3. IN A TELEGRAM TO THE ISRAELI TRADE UNION FEDERATION HISTADRUT ON OCTOBER 16, THE DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD REAFFIRMED "THE RIGHT OF THE ISRAELIS TO A PEACEFUL EXISTENCE WITHIN SECURE BORDERS." IT WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY CONSTANT MILITARY CONFLICT. THEREFORE THE DGB CONDEMNS THE AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS IN WHICH ISRAEL IS NOW INVOLVED. WAR CANNOT REPLACE OR ENFORCE A POLITICAL SOLUTION BUT ONLY BRINGS

ABOUT DISTRESS AND MISERY, THE DGB EMPHASIZED. THE DGB STRESSED ITS SUPPORT OF AN ICFTU STATEMENT THAT SUCH A PEACE CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE PREPARED TO STOP MILITARY ACTIONS BEFORE THIS CONFLICT DEVELOPS INTO A WORLD CONFLICT OF UNPREDICTABLE DIMENSIONS. THE DGB ALSO INFORMED HISTADRUT THAT DGB DELEGATIONS, DURING THEIR RECENT TALKS WITH EAST EUROPEAN TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES, HAVE REAFFIRMED THEIR VIEW THAT UNILATERAL SUPPORT OF THE ARAB POSITION BY EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS DOES NOT HELP BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THIS CONFLICT, BUT RATHER PROMOTES THE USE OF FORCE. "THE DGB HOLDS THE VIEW THAT ALL COUNTRIES AT WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CEASE FIRE AND LOOK FOR POLITICAL SOLUTIONS FOR THEIR CONTROVERSIAL VIEWS. THEREFORE IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE BIG POWERS TO PROVIDE CONCRETE, BINDING AND CREDIBLE GUARANTEES FOR THE SECURITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THUS TO BAN ONCE AND FOR ALL THE

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DANGER OF WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO OPEN THE ROAD
TOWARD A PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT," THE TELEGRAM CONCLUDED.

4. THE DGB WEEKLY WELT DER ARBEIT FOLLOWED A SIMILAR
LINE IN AN EDITORIAL STRESSING THE NEED FOR A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT AND REAFFIRMING THE RIGHT OF
ISRAEL TO EXIST WITHIN SECURE BORDERS. HOWEVER, THE
UNION PAPER CHARGED THAT THE TWO SUPER POWERS AND THE
UN WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEW BLOODSHED IN THE SINAI
AND ON THE GOLAN HILLS. "MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON WERE
THE FIRST TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE TWO HOSTILE CAMPS.
IN AN EYE-WINKING AGREEMENT THEY LEFT THEIR PROTEGES TO
THEMSELVES. THE UN ON ITS PART HAS DONE NOTHING TO
COUNTERACT THE THOUGHTLESS COMPLICITY OF THE ATOMIC
GIANTS AND TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION
ON THE BASIS OF THE UN RESOLUTION OF 1967. EGYPTIANS AND
SYRIANS FINALLY FELT THEMSELVES ISOLATED AND BETRAYED
BY ALL THE WORLD. THEN NO ONE BELIEVED THE DECLARATIONS
OF THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT THAT WAR WAS INESCAPABLE IF
THE LOST TERRITORIES WERE NOT RETURNED. "THE WAR IS
ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO BRING THE UNSOLVED MIDDLE EAST
PROBLEM AGAIN INTO THE WORLD POLITICAL ARENA. NEITHER
SIDE CAN BE VICTORIOUS. FOR EGYPT AND SYRIA IT WOULD
ALREADY BE A MAJOR SUCCESS IF THEY SUCCEED, AS A RESULT
OF MINOR GAINS OF TERRITORY, IN SECURING RATIFICATION
OF THE 1967 DEMARCATION LINE AND IN MAINTAINING THIS
ADVANTAGE UNTIL AN ARMISTICE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

ISRAEL, ON THE OTHER HAND, WILL NOT SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MARCHING ITS TROOPS INTO CAIRO OR DAMASCUS..." IN ANOTHER ARTICLE UNDER THE HEADING "INCENDIARIES AS A FIRE BRIGADE," WELT DER ARBEIT ON OCTOBER 26 CHARGED THE "TWO WORLD POLICEMEN" WITH ACTING WITH AN "ALMOST UNBEARABLE CYNICISM" WITH THEIR SUPPLY OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS AND THEN SUDDENLY WITH THEIR CEASE FIRE ORDERS. THE WORLD NEVERTHELESS WILL HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THIS DOUBLE-FACED COMPLICITY, WELT DER ARBEIT SAID. WE HOPE THAT BOTH THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL MAY DEVELOP A NEW SENSE OF REALISM. IF THE MIDDLE EAST REMAINS A POWDER BARREL AND THUS THE THEATER OF A FRAGILE AND CONSTANTLY ENDANGERED PEACE, IT IS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESPONSIBILITY OF THOSE WHO CONSTANTLY INJECT NEW TENSIONS INTO THIS WEATHER SHED OF WORLD POLITICS. THE ARABS AND THE ISRAELIS, ON THEIR OWN, MUST STAND UP AGAINST SUCH SHAMELESS ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE THEIR LIVES AND HAPPINESS, THE WELT DER ARBEIT CONCLUDED.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE MINEWORKERS UNION JOURNAL EINHEIT DENOUNCED THE ARAB SURPRISE ATTACK ON ISRAEL POINTING OUT THAT THE ARABS HAD ADMITTED THAT THEY OPENED HTE HOSTILITIES. IF THE SOVIETS NOW MAKE ISRAEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE NEW WAR, THE PAPER ARGUES, THE QUESTION SIMULTANEOUSLY COMES UP WHETHER THE SOVIETS ACTUALLY WISH TO GRANT ISRAEL THE RIGHT TO EXIST WITHIN SECURE BORDERS WHICH ISRAEL NEEDS IF IT IS NOT TO BECOME A PAWN OF FOREIGN INTERESTS. THE SOVIETS MUST BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT PREVIOUS TO THE SIX-DAY WAR IN 1967, THE ISRAELI BORDERS DID NOT PROVIDE ANY PROTECTION AGAINST THE CONSTANT TERRORIST ACTIONS OF THE NEIGHBORING ARAB STATES. THE BIG POWERS WILL HAVE TO MAKE IT CLEAR WHETHER ISRAEL, A STATE CREATED BY THE UN, HAS A CLAIM TO SECURE BORDERS, OR TO PUT IT IN CLEAR TERMS: WHETHER IN THE FUTURE SYRIAN CANNONS CAN FIRE AGAIN WITH IMPUNITY FROM THE GOLAN HILLS INTO ISRAELI VALLEYS WHEN-

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EVER THEY WISH, EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF OPEN WARFARE.
THIS WAS THE CASE UNTIL 1967 WHEN ISRAEL OCCUPIED THE
GOLAN HILLS, EINHEIT EMPHASIZED.

6. AFTER THE EAST GERMAN LABOR CONFEDERATION FDGB ANNOUNCED THE APPROPRIATION OF 10 MILLION MARKS FROM ITS SOLIDARITY FUND TO ASSIST THE TRADE UNIONS AND PEOPLE OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES IN THEIR "FIGHT AGAINST THE ISRAELI AGGRESSION, THE FRG CONSERVATIVE PAPER DIE WELT CONTRASTED THE DGB AND FDGB POLICIES COMMENTING: "WHILE THE FDGB DONATED 10 MILLION MARKS TO THE ARAB AGGRESSORS, THE RICH DGB DID NOT EVEN CALL FOR VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO CHARITY WORK IN ISRAEL."

7. COMMENT. THIS DGB REACTION REFLECTS THE OFFICIAL NEUTRAL GOVERNMENT POSITION AND IMPLIES THE DGB DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF ITS DETENTE PROGRAM IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS. THE LACK OF A FULL DECLARATION OF SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL IN THE DGB TELEGRAM TO HISTADRUT IS UNUSUAL SINCE UP TO THIS TIME THERE HAVE BEEN CLOSE AND FRATERNAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE DGB AND HISTADRUT. ALTHOUGH THE DGB STRENGTHENED ITS INITIAL STAND AFTER TALKS WITH ISRAELI REPS, IT DID NOT SUPPORT ISRAELI REQUESTS FOR A CLEAR CONDEMNATION OF ARAB AGGRESSION AND SOVIET SUPPORT OF ARAB MILITARY ACTIONS.

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